

# FNP ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group



# DEVELOPMENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2022

## Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group in short

The Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP) is a social science group that contributes to scientific and societal debates about forest-nature-people relationships in different localities and at different scales.

We cover three main topics in research and education: 1) Forest and Nature Policy and Governance (the "Policy Sphere"), 2) Value Chains and Markets for Ecosystem Services (the "Market Sphere"), and 3) Nature-Society-Interactions (the "Society Sphere").

FNP offers a wide range of courses in different educational programmes such as the bachelor's programme Forest and Nature Management (BBN),

the master's programme Forest and Nature Conservation (MFN), the Sustainable Development Diplomacy track (SDD) and various PhD courses and education opportunities such as summer schools.

The FNP chair group had the following composition by the end of 2022:

- 2 Professors
- 2 Associate Professors
- 4 Assistant Professors
- 2 Postdoctoral Researchers
- 4 Lecturers and 1 Junior Lecturer
- 28 PhD researchers
- 6 Visiting Scholars and 2 Guest Researchers
- 2 Secretaries
- 1 Administrator

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## FNP highlights

2022 has been a year rich of experiences and changes for our group. Below some of our highlights in a condensed form:

- **FNP faces - the sad and the good.** Changes in FNP staff continued in 2022. The beginning of the year was marked by the passing away of Birgit Elands, a wonderful colleague who left a big legacy for the group's work on human nature interactions. In memory of Birgit and to commemorate her achievements, our group has launched the [Birgit Elands Thesis Award](#), which was awarded for the first time in December 2022; see the winner [here](#). FNP postdocs Josie Chambers and Sander van der Jagt left our group for tenure track positions at [University of Utrecht](#) and [Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh](#), respectively. We wish them all the best in their academic careers and look forward to staying in touch! 2022 was also the year of new arrivals. Sabrina Dressel (as tenure tracker) and Agata Konczal (as PostDoc) joined FNP. Find out [here](#) about Sabrina's research on wolves and moose management, and why [Agata](#) thinks we need a [forest anthropology](#). Last but not least, [Georg Winkel](#) started as FNP's chairholder.
- **The wisdom of (wild) nature - FNP Education.** 2022 was a great year for [FNP Education](#). The bachelor's programme in [Forests and Nature Conservation](#) was voted as one of the top three bachelor's programmes in The Netherlands. The FNP-led PhD course Transformative Research for Global Social-Environmental Challenges received [Wageningen's Education Innovation Award](#). FNP lecturers Koen Arts and Reineke van Tol made advances in academic outdoor education – to find out more about what our students learned in wild nature, click [here](#).
- **From tracking hunters in Congo's rainforests to sand on the Dutch coast - our PhD students.** PhD students continue to be the heart of our scientific research. 2022 saw Tina Bauer and Taufik Haryanto graduate – congratulations to them both! Throughout 2022 up to January 2023, 15 new PhD students joined/will be joining FNP, extending our rich network of PhD students from all over the world. Find out what our current PhD students are working on [here](#).
- **Forest governance, (un-) sustainable money and spiritual forests - FNP Research.** FNP researchers published a total of 52 scientific publications (42 being peer reviewed journal papers) and 12 professional publications in 2022. The thematic focus was broad, relating to FNP's three major research themes. You can find out more about some of our publications below. For all other publications, see [here](#).
- **Sustainable money - research funding and future projects.** FNP has been successful in 2022 with research acquisitions which are paving the way for exciting future work. For example, the new "[TC4BE](#)" [EU Horizon project on governing global agro-food value chains for \(positive\) biodiversity and equity outcomes](#), coordinated by Verina Ingram, had its kick-off meeting in December 2022. Find out about our

projects, including FNP's work on [Rewilding in Europe](#), on [SDG interactions in Eastern Africa](#), [sacred forests in Cameroon](#), or [new forest management practices for multiple societal goals in Europe](#).

- **From grey hair and green forests to the Global Biodiversity Framework- Societal Impact.** FNP staff members have actively engaged in societal debates relating to forests and nature. We continue to be involved to [make the Dutch Pension fund more sustainable](#) and transparent or have worked on [inclusion and diversity in research and education](#). Find out what Georg Winkel thinks about [EU forest policy](#), why Nowella Anyango-van Zwieten became the [woman of the year](#), what Koen Arts and Arjen Buijs think about [rewilding in The](#)

[Netherlands](#), and why Jelle Behagel argues that the [Global Biodiversity Framework](#) that was adopted on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 is a historical decision.

**And what comes next?** Outlooks come with the risk of proving wrong in the future, so here we keep it to the minimum. What is certain is that there is lots of exciting and important work ahead of us, with new research projects and education ideas, and new colleagues at the start. A big highlight is the appointment of [Maria Tengö, Stockholm Resilience Center, as Special Chair on Human-Nature-Relationships in the Anthropocene](#), funded through Nature College, starting at FNP on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

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## RESEARCH

Our research focuses on understanding interactions between people and nature in a broad sense and with a specific focus on forests. We embrace theoretical and methodological pluralism, working with concepts originating from the political sciences, sociology, anthropology, and human geography, and enjoy collaboration across disciplines to address wicked problems. Our research takes place in locations all over the world, from the local to the global level. Thematically, our work focusses on three main research themes.

### FNP's Research Themes

- **Forest and nature policy and governance**

How forests and nature are valued, used, managed, and governed depends on a broad range of worldviews, interests and ways of knowing connected to actors, policies and institutions. Clashing ideas and interests result in political struggles that often involve unequal power relations. This research theme addresses the 'politics of governance' and explores how major paradigms, discourses, institutions and interests play out in policy making. We are also studying what impacts policies have, from global to local levels, including the ways in which local people defy or adopt policy interventions and the difference these make to forests and nature.

- **Value chains and markets for ecosystem services**

Forest and nature-based economies are crucial for

human development and welfare, as well as for global land use patterns interwoven with environmental and social challenges such as deforestation or displacement of smallholders. This theme analyses the interplay of markets and policies along forest landscape related value chains, focusing on people, from local producers to end consumers, who are often located in different global contexts. The issues covered here include not only global product value chains such as timber and agrofood, but also markets for ecosystem services, such as climate mitigation or biodiversity conservation. A specific focus is on how local land managers – while adapting to multiple demands and drivers – respond in their land use practices, and the socio-economic and environmental consequences thereof.

- **Nature society interactions**

This theme explores the ways in which humans enact their relationships with nature and the implications for the governance and management of nature. This includes understanding peoples' conceptualisations of experiences in nature and values attributed to nature, individual and collective stewardship practices in urban and non-urban contexts and peoples' motivations to participate in the stewardship of biocultural diversity and contribute to transformative change. Topics range from social conflicts to social innovations, community-based conservation, cultural and spiritual connections to nature, digital conservation and co-creation practices in the fields of nature conservation, restoration, area-based conservation, wildlife, rewilding and renaturing cities.

## FNP Research highlights

In 2022, a number of [national and international research projects](#) were started at FNP: two of them are highlighted below.

- Beyond cherry-picking: aligning development actors and efforts for inclusive and effective governance of trade-offs and synergies between SDGs in East Africa.** This project will study the effectiveness of governance mechanisms that aim to align SDG efforts among donors, recipients, and public and private initiatives in Ethiopia (Multi-level study of interactions with SDG15 (Life on land): the challenge of landscape restoration), Kenya (Multi-level study of interactions with SDG2 (No hunger): the

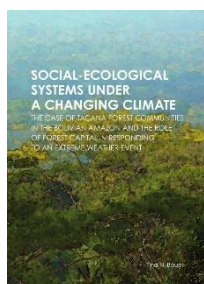
challenge of climate-smart livestock) and Uganda (Multi-level study of interactions with SDG6 (Clean water and sanitation: the urban water-energy-food nexus), led by Verina Ingram and Jelle Behagel. Two Ethiopian FNP PhD candidates are involved: Aytenew Tatek and Dereje Yimam.

- Governing wildlife practices in China's post-Covid food system.** This project investigates how changes in wildlife practices in China's food systems can help sustainably and ethically transform food systems and achieve interspecies health. It is being carried out by Jin Qian and supervised by Arjen Buijs (FNP) and Annah Zhu (ENP).

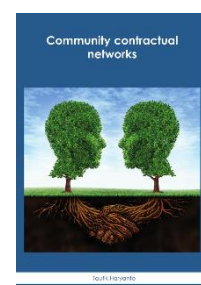
## Dissertations

In 2022 two FNP PhD candidates have defended their dissertation successfully at Wageningen University.

**Tina Bauer (2022):** Social-ecological systems under a changing climate: the case of Tacana forest communities in the Bolivian Amazon and the role of forest capital in responding to an extreme weather event (under embargo till 21 September 2023).



**Taufik Haryanto (2022):** Community contractual networks (under embargo till 25 November 2023).



## FNP publications and achievements

With 52 scientific publications out of a total output of 64 publications in 2022 FNP Group keeps the high standard of scientific output. The remaining output, not mentioned in the table on this page, includes a variety of invited lectures, media appearances, panel discussions and presentations at workshops and seminars.

The numbers are growing slightly again, after some years of decreased numbers because of the absence of a chair holder. Usually the head of a chair group substantially contributes to the scientific output, so in this respect the future looks bright.

Output FNP in numbers	2022
<b>Scientific publications</b>	
PhD theses ((co-)promotor at FNP)	2
Refereed articles in a journal	42
Non-refereed articles in a journal	0
Books	0
Refereed book chapters	6
Non-refereed book chapters	1
Non-refereed conference papers	1
<b>Total scientific publications</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Professional publications</b>	
Articles in journal	2
Reports	6
Books	0
Book chapters	3
Conference papers	1
<b>Total publications</b>	<b>64</b>



## Selected FNP publications for 2022

Published by Cambridge University Press  
**Forest Governance. Hydra or Chloris?**  
Bas Arts

Many forest-related problems are considered relevant today. One might think of deforestation, illegal logging and biodiversity loss. Yet, many governance initiatives have been initiated to work on their solutions. This book takes stock of these issues and initiatives by analysing different forest governance modes, shifts and norms, and by studying five cases (forest sector governance, forest legality, forest certification, forest conservation, participatory forest management). Special focus is on performance: are the many forest governance initiatives able to change established practices of forest decline (Chloris worldview) or are they doomed to fail (Hydra worldview)? The answer will be both, depending on geographies and local conditions. The analyses are guided by discursive institutionalism and philosophical pragmatism. Access here: [240949.pdf \(ru.nl\)](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009054949)

Published by KNNV Uitgeverij  
**Rewilding in the Netherlands (in Dutch)**  
Koen Arts, Liesbeth Bakker, Arjen Buijs (Eds.)

This book meant for a professional audience discusses the potential of Rewilding as a strategy to counter the climate and biodiversity crises. Various writers discuss their views on the ecological, administrative and social possibilities of rewilding, illustrated with real-life examples of small and large scale rewilding in the Netherlands. Rewilding usually takes place in large areas, rewilding an entire landscape. Taking the Netherlands as example, a country in which everything is planned, regulated and ordered, the essays engage with questions as to whether rewilding fits within current nature policy, such as Natura2000, what the consequences are for biodiversity, and how society views rewilding.

This collection of essays sees the multitude of discussions about rewilding as a strength. Apparently, the term rewilding offers something – whether hopeful or not – that energizes many people to get started.  
<https://doi.org/10.18174/559474>

Publication in *Children, Youth, and Environments*  
**"Nature Is Where There Is No Electricity and Wifi": Understanding Children's Connectedness with Nature through Their Images of Nature and Emotional Affinity towards Nature**  
Reineke van Tol, Birgit Elands, Arjen Buijs & Matthijs Schouten

This study explored nature connectedness among children in a Western context through focus group interviews and open-ended questionnaires with children in four primary schools in The Netherlands. Our study defined nature connectedness as a combination of individuals' images of nature and

their emotional affinity towards nature. The results show that most participating children have rather dualistic and human-centred images of nature. Most of the children enjoyed being in nature, but showed limited emotional affection toward the natural world. Moreover, images of humans and nature as enemies and of humans as having lost their oneness with nature ("Paradise lost") emerge from this study. The nature/culture divide and marginal affection found in this study are worrisome for future care for the Earth. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cye.2022.0014>

Publication in *Ecology and Society*  
**Exploring evolving spiritual values of forests in Europe and Asia: a transition hypothesis toward re-spiritualizing forests**  
Jeanne-Lazya Roux, Agata Konczal, Georg Winkel et al.

This study investigates spiritual values of forests from European and Asian perspectives, assessing 13 countries. The core contribution is in showing the connections among changing forest perceptions, changing land-use governance and practices, and changing forest spirituality. Increasing the understanding of this relationship holds promise for supporting forest policy-making and management in addressing trade-offs between spiritual values and other aspects of forests.  
<https://doi.org/10.5751/ES-13509-270420>

Book chapter in *Routledge Handbook of Community Forestry*  
**Dynamics in community forestry in the Netherlands: Impacts of changing cultural ecological knowledge**  
Koen Arts, Thomas Mattijssen and Freerk Wiersum

In the Netherlands, novel types of community forestry are emerging. The original interpretation of community forestry as common property management connected to indigenous or traditional ecological knowledge hardly applies to these modern manifestations of community forestry. The Dutch cases are primarily based on common identities rather than on common property, and they focus on the management of integrated green spaces rather than of forests only. These examples illustrate how in response to processes of modernisation, both the institutional context of community forestry and its management orientation are changing. In response to dynamics in cultural ecological knowledge, two novel forms of community forestry are identified in the Netherlands: (i) rural approaches towards the management of green spaces reflecting biocultural memories, and (ii) peri-urban approaches towards the management of innovative green spaces reflecting biocultural creativity. While pertinent to the Dutch context, we argue that our proposed reconceptualisation of community forestry to community-based green space management characterised by a sense of shared identity may offer value for cases in other economically developed countries too. [Routledge Handbook of Community Forestry \(wur.nl\)](https://doi.org/10.1080/17445019.2022.2088888)

Publication in *Forest Policy and Economics*  
**Governing Europe's forests for multiple ecosystem services: Opportunities, challenges, and policy options**

Georg Winkel, Marko Lovrić, Bart Muys, Pia Katila, Thomas Lundhede, Mireia Pecurul, ... & Sven Wunder (2022)

This paper assesses the state and prospects of forest ecosystem services provision in Europe, introducing new data from several large scale European collaborative research projects, and combining it with findings from the literature. It identifies six challenges (1 an insufficient alignment of FES supply and demand, 2 lacking policy integration, 3 ambiguous and conflicting regulatory frameworks, 4 a lack of precise information on FES demand and provision, and innovations to align both, 5 an increasing pressure to adapt to climate change, and 6 a striking diversity constraining

European level policy solutions) and three opportunities (1 increasingly heterogenous forest owner objectives potentially matching pluralistic societal demands, 2 diversifying forest enterprises leveraging innovations in regulating and cultural ecosystem services provision, and 3 the potential of forests to mitigate climate change). Subsequently, four distinct but complimentary policy pathways for European forest policy to better align forest ecosystem services provision and demand are introduced: 1 Better monitoring of FES supply and demand, 2 Enhanced policy integration, 3 Payments for ecosystem services, and 4 Bottom-up participation and learning among ecosystem services innovators. The paper concludes by emphasizing the momentum that the EU Green Deal unfolds for a future European forest policy to incentivise the provision of multiple forest ecosystem services.

A full publication list can be found on <https://research.wur.nl/en/organisations/forest-and-nature-conservation-policy/publications/?publicationYear=2022>

## EDUCATION

### FNP education in 2022

The Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group staff participated in 22 courses, 10 of which FNP coordinates. The majority (15) of courses are part of the BSc programme Forest and Nature Management (BBN), and 7 are part of the MSc programme Forest and Nature Conservation (MFN). Examples of our courses are:

**People and Forest & Nature Conservation (FNP24806)** is a bachelor course that introduces theoretical concepts such as public engagement and public support, self-governance, nature experience, images of nature, sense of place and wildlife values. Key to the course is the acknowledgement of diversity in views and opinions within society and between citizens and conservationists. As nature conservation critically depends on political and societal support, conservationists need to be able to understand this diversity and discuss the consequences of this diversity for success and failure in nature conservation practices. The course explicitly stimulates such discussions, both between students as well as between students and teachers. The course was given by Arjen Buijs and Rianne Kat.

**Communities, Conservation and Development (FNP31306)**, a master course that critically looks at the interface between local communities and conservation institutions. Philosophical, anthropological and social perspectives are offered to students, and they are encouraged to consider how (their) conceived epistemologies and ontologies may clash with those of locally operating actors

elsewhere. Various concepts are deconstructed and, to a degree, reconstructed, including 'wilderness', 'community', 'human rights', 'development' and 'conservation'. This course has been running for many years in cooperation with the WUR Sociology of Development and Change group. Last year Gerard Verschoor retired, and Esther Marijnen now makes up the coordination team with Koen Arts.

**Wild Perspectives (FNP51803)** and **Anthropology of Basic Nature Skills: Combining Theory and Practice Through Relational Learning (FNP51306)**: two new courses were also developed in the last years. Wild Perspectives (FNP51803) is a 3 ECTS summer capita selecta coordinated by Reineke van Tol. While being in the field as much as possible, students reflect on their perspective on nature, and how their relationships with nature influence their images of nature and vice versa. The Anthropology of Basic Nature Skills course (FNP51306), coordinated by Koen Arts, takes an anthropological approach to studying basic skills used in natural and outdoor settings, such as fire making, tracking and natural navigation. Both courses combine theory and practice through relational learning, so that practical, hands-on experiences are used to support theoretical understanding, and the other way around. This attention for nature-based relational learning feeds into broader cooperations and networks, for instance with NatuurCollege, the Education and Learning Sciences group, and the PhD projects by Reineke van Tol and Ravi van de Port.

FNP teaches in other chair group's courses as well, such as **Agroforestry (FEM32306)**. In this master course agroforestry systems are evaluated as part of farmers' livelihoods and embedded in economic, institutional and policy environments. It provides the students an understanding of the social and ecological mechanisms underlying their functioning and productivity. This course spans a range of fundamental concepts and practices using a socio-ecological systems approach. Examples from agroforestry systems from around the world are described and discussed. A central aspect of this course is to develop and spark students' critical and analytical thinking; under what socio-ecological conditions and how can an agroforestry system contribute to livelihoods, food security and resilience to climate change?

We also continued to coordinate the Sustainable Development Diplomacy track and FNP staff supervised Academic Consultancy Trainings.

With the appointment of four parttime (junior) lecturers – Reineke van Tol, Rianne Kat, Ravi van de Port and Angus Smith – we have found an exciting way of supporting permanent staff in their cursory and non-cursory education activities, while nurturing early-career research talent through their own PhD projects.

As one of the four key chair groups contributing to the BSc programme Forest & Nature Conservation, FNP is proud that the programme has been awarded the status of top level BSc programme in the Keuzegids Universiteiten 2023. It is one of 13 BSc programmes in Wageningen University which has been given a 5-star rating, and with 89 points it is one of the top two BSc programmes in Wageningen, and among the top 3 in The Netherlands.

### MSc theses

In 2022 35 FNP master theses (FNP-80436) have been successfully finalized. One other master thesis was co-supervised. A small selection of the wide variety of topics is highlighted below.

- **Ruben Hoekstra:** [Leading by Compassion: Conservation leadership at the crossroads of gender, struggles and empowerment.](#) (supervised by Bas Verschuuren, Elisabet Rasch (SDC) & Josephine Chambers (FNP/UU)).
- **Jay Gietzelt:** [Collaborative governance in marine protected areas: the role of structural arrangements and knowledge in climate change adaptation](#) (supervised by Jelle Behagel).
- **Sanne Moes:** [The experience of eco-emotions in young people from Fridays For Future the Netherlands](#) (supervised by Reineke van Tol (FNP) & Elisabet Rasch (SDC)).

- **Arnaud Legrand:** [A matter of time, trust & compromise: insights on the development of participatory, results-oriented agri-environmental measures in Voeren, Belgium.](#) (supervised by Nowella Anyango-van Zwieten).
- **Sam Dijsselbloem:** [Is timber coming back to the future of construction? Mass timber construction in the Dutch biobased circular economy: a backcasting scenario analysis.](#) (supervised by Bas Arts).
- **Nikhil Arlikatti:** [Environmentality, multiple truths, and infinite subjectivities: the creation of sub-communal environmental subjects through the discourse between the sacred and science](#) (supervised by Bas Verschuuren & Elisabet Rasch (SDC)).

### BSc theses, Internships and Research Practices

Additionally, 13 BSc theses (PEN-80812), 25 academic internships (FNP-70424), and 1 research practice were finalized in 2022 and supervised by FNP staff.



## Societal impact 2022

FNP explicitly works to improve the societal impact of our work. We believe impact is best achieved by developing long-term relationships with stakeholders. This allows for discussions on the design of new research, close collaborations during the research, and follow up studies based on previous results, including learning from unsuccessful projects and research.

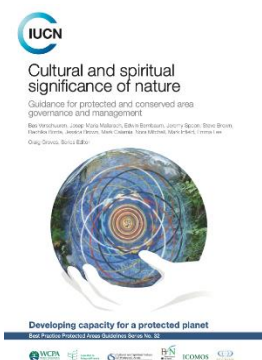
For impact on a more generic level, staff members engage in national and international advisory work with and for e.g. IPBES, IUFRO, FAO, EU and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). For example, Georg Winkel has been given several invited talks at EU institutions and working groups in 2022, and Arjen Buijs is member of the jury for the Sustainable 100 competition from the Dutch national newspaper TROUW, celebrating impactful and innovative green grassroots. FNP is very active on social media, not only from individual staff, but also through the FNP Twitter account (@FNPWUR), LinkedIn and blogposts on our website. In total, staff and FNP have over 1000 followers and our publications have had over 100.000 reads at Research Gate. Once a month, we publish a blogpost on relevant themes, such as spiritual meanings of forests, the COP-15 United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties in Montreal, but also our efforts to contribute to a more sustainable pension funds through our "Grey Hair, Green Forests" activities. You can find

examples here: <https://www.wur.nl/en/Research-Results/Chair-groups/Environmental-Sciences/Forest-and-Nature-Conservation-Policy-Group/Blog-FNP.htm>. With this, we increase our transparency and connection with interested colleagues, practitioners, students and others.

The research of Bas Verschuuren on cultural and spiritual values of nature in conservation management and his chairing of an IUCN World Commission Specialist group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of protected Areas has mobilised a community of practice that is now generating change in various protected and conserved areas around the world.



Winners of the Trouw Sustainable 100 (picture Arjen Buijs)



## Our colleagues

- **Nowella Anyango-van Zwieten** (lecturer) works at the nexus between nature conservation and sustainable development from an environmental sociology perspective. The range of topics that she has researched include biodiversity finance, funding flows for large conservation organisations, payments for ecosystem services, energy transition, science diplomacy, human-wildlife conflicts and tourism financial flows. Nowella is the coordinator of the BSc Science and Expertise in Nature and Environment course and a member of the Conservation Finance Alliance, the 4TU Alliance on Energy Access and the network of Graduate Research On Worldwide Challenges (GROW).
- **Bas Arts** (personal professor) occupies a position as a Personal Professor in Forest Governance. He is also Chief Scientist at PBL, the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency in The Hague, contributing to the quality of PBL's research and its research agenda. Bas's research and teaching focus on international forest, biodiversity and climate change governance, local natural resource management and their interconnections.
- **Koen Arts** (lecturer) is focusing on human dimensions of nature conservation. He often works from a political ecology perspective on topics such as human-wildlife interaction and conflict; community-based conservation; applications of digital technologies; wild nature recreation; rewilding; and cultural aspects of conservation. He has worked in various places around the world, including India, Scotland and Brazil. His work features in prominent journals in the field. Koen is a passionate conservationist, and also has a strong interest in green writing beyond academia.
- **Jelle Behagel** (associate professor) is an expert on the politics of forest and nature conservation, with a special interest in Latin America. Jelle works on topics that include zero deforestation commitments and commodity trade, discourses of forest and



nature conservation, and the role of political fantasy in environmental diplomacy and governance. He teaches multiple courses on political and social theory of forest and nature conservation and is coordinator of the special Master track on Sustainable Development Diplomacy (SDD). Jelle is also chair of the central participation body of Wageningen University & Research, called the WUR Council.

- **Arjen Buijs** (assistant professor) investigates human-nature interactions and their relationship with stewardship practices. He specifically focuses on how citizens self-organise for stewardship or political actions, how they aim for sustainable transitions and how these groups relate to local and national governments. In several European and global projects, Arjen investigates urban governance structures that foster collaborations between civil society and local governments. Arjen explicitly aims for social impact through collaborations with stakeholders in transdisciplinary research, policy evaluations, advice, workshops and presentations.
- **Josephine Chambers** (postdoctoral researcher and lecturer) is a transdisciplinary social scientist broadly interested in pluralistic, creative and political ways of transforming our collective imagination and action. Josephine was given the Education Innovation Award on the new PhD course 'Transformative Research for Global Social-Environmental Challenges' for the first time awarded during the Dies Natalis of Wageningen University on 9 March. Josephine has been working at FNP for two years till the beginning of 2022, when she started a position as an assistant professor at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University. Her current research projects focus on the role of narratives, play, mapping, experimental governance, and decolonization in transforming possible futures.
- **Sabrina Dressel** (assistant professor) is an interdisciplinary researcher who believes that sustainable natural resource governance requires a social-ecological systems perspective and insights from multiple disciplines. Her research is characterized by a mixture of quantitative and qualitative methods that aim to analyze the interlinkages between individuals, society and nature. Creating knowledge that has societal impact and addressing real world-problems are the overarching goals of her work. Sabrina actively engages with stakeholders and decision-makers as part of her research and societal outreach efforts. She has a keen interest and experience in developing and teaching interdisciplinary courses on human-nature relationships at under- and post-graduate levels, aiming to provide students with the skills needed to contribute to sustainable development.
- **Birgit Elands** (assistant professor) has been focussing on planning and management of biocultural diversity in urban green infrastructure. In the GREEN SURGE project, she explored how a diversity of natures and a diversity of cultures are interlinked in a range of European Cities with a strong focus on the governance of urban green spaces. Unfortunately she passed away on February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022.
- **Natsuo Fujisawa Endo** (postdoctoral researcher) examines how small-scale farmers create coffee agroforestry landscapes through diversified livelihood strategies. Adopting a transdisciplinary approach, and deploying forest ecological, rural sociological, and anthropological methods, she aims to contribute to generating sustainable agroforestry landscapes based on local farmers' knowledge and practices. Natsuo has done field research in Panama, Borneo, Malaysia, and Japan. At FNP, she is focusing on the potential of agroforestry as a key tool for promoting a sustainable society. Recently, the connections between rural and urban areas have become stronger and rural inhabitants have increasingly chosen off-farm work as their main source of livelihood. At the same time, small-scale farmers are expected to play a vital role in conserving biodiversity in forests and agricultural land. She considers this interaction and the ways in which agroforestry can contribute to the re-valuation of rural livelihoods and the environment.
- **Marjanke Hoogstra-Klein** (assistant professor) as a forest social scientist, her research interests include the area of forest management and economics. Current research focuses on strategic management, innovative business models, decision-making and decision-making styles, organisational behaviour, risk and uncertainty, foresight approaches, and certification and labelling. She develops and teaches courses in business management and administration, decision-making and economics. She is also Associate Editor for the Journal of Forest Policy and Economics.
- **Verina Ingram** (associate professor) is researching the social and environmental impacts of the governance of the landscape - value chain nexus. Verina focuses on vulnerable groups in society, with a geographical focus on tropical humid

and dry forested landscapes in Central and West Africa, the Amazon and Indonesia, looking at non-timber products (such as nuts, honey, fruits, leaves and wood fuel) and agricultural tree products (such as cocoa, coffee and palm oil). She is a member of organizations that deal with policy and practice of governing agroforestry and non-timber forest products value chains in tropical countries, such as the ISEAL Alliance, the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade, the International Association for the Study of the Commons (IASC), the Western Highlands Conservation Network in Cameroon, and the International Tropical Timber Organization. She coordinates the Memorandum of Understanding between Wageningen UR and the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)- and World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

- **Sander van der Jagt** (postdoctoral researcher) worked in the Horizon 2020 CONEXUS project that aims to co-create nature-based solutions through improved governance and planning in the cities of São Paulo, Bogotá, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Lisbon, Barcelona and Turin. During the research he focused on developing a better understanding of the different values provided by nature in cities through the development of a participatory assessment framework and by analyzing how current governance approaches are influencing the creation and protection of multifunctional nature in cities. Sander also worked as a lecturer in FNP. At the start of the new academic year 2022/2023, Sander started a position as assistant professor at the Urban Institute of Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. There he researches and teaches on the topics of urban nature governance, urban design and well-being, and nature-based sustainability transformations.
- **Rianne Kat** (lecturer) is a teacher and researcher interested in nature, people and the landscapes they shape. She is interested in the ways in which people can coexist with their environment in a balanced way, which she studied in bottom-up initiatives that develop and practice new ways of relating with nature. She has a background in Forest and Nature Conservation and teaches on governance-related topics at FNP. In 2023, she started a PhD project on knowledge co-production in ecological restoration.
- **Agata Konczal** (postdoctoral researcher) has a background in humanities and social science and holds a PhD in social and cultural anthropology from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. Her specialization lies in environmental

anthropology, political ecology, environmental history and in particular in forest anthropology. Agata's main research interests are studies on perception, understanding and use of forests by different social groups, various approaches to, and interpretations of nature protection (e.g. within rewilding projects), and interdisciplinary research relating to forest and environmental topics.

- **Reineke van Tol** (lecturer and PhD candidate) studies and teaches on the relational being of humans in the world and the implications of that for nature conservation and careful co-existence on the planet. Her work departs from a post-humanist, eco-feminist lens, decentring the human and reflecting upon our conceptualizations of (the rest of) nature, our position in this complex web of interrelations and the agency of non-human beings in the web. She is currently working on a PhD around relational, transformative learning practices in 'wild' learning spaces, situated in a liquid modern world facing climate change and biodiversity loss.
- **Bas Verschuuren** (assistant professor) is focusing on the role of human-nature relations in the management and governance of nature and cultural heritage in area-based conservation. Conceptual and theoretical areas of interest include: political ontology, cultural anthropology, phenomenology and ethnography. His research is applied, participatory and co-constructed with local communities, Indigenous peoples, conservation experts, NGOs and governments. He has worked extensively in Northern Australia, Ghana, Guatemala, Iceland and Mongolia with shorter engagements in many other countries.
- **Georg Winkel** (chair of the group) is a forester, social scientist and environmentalist with a keen research interest on human nature interactions, a particular focus on forest and conservation policy, and a desire to help to create better future policies through critically analysing the current ones. Georg has authored or co-authored over 80 peer reviewed [academic publications](#), and has extensively worked at the science policy interface, among other things through leading and contributing to several reports on forests and conservation issues.

Our progress in science and research has been developed substantially by the talents of (young) ambitious scientists and researchers. FNP hosts many of them: FNP (affiliated) PhD candidates during 2022 were: Tina Bauer, Anna Begemann, Jan-Willem den Besten, Jakob Derks, Lyda Dik, Marie Djosetro, Jessica Gansonkeng Zambou,

Maximilian Graefen, Eugenie van Heijgen, Trong Hoan Do, Wengyuan Liang, Timo Maas, Marieke Meesters, Tabitha Muriuki, Catharina de Pater, Serge Piabuo, Jin Qian, Dennis Roitsch, Jeanne Roux, Judith Slagt, Aytenew Tatek, Dereje Yimam, Dario Zambrano Cortes, and Marieke Zon.

Other temporary, affiliated or permanent colleagues in 2022 were: Bianca Ambrose-Oji, Hans

Kamerbeek, Cecil Konijnendijk, Jim van Laar, Jinlong Liu, Maria Pierce, Keen-mun Poon, Hens Runhaar, Jolien Schure, Esther Turnhout, Annick de Witt, and Mohsen Soleymanir.

Detailed information on our collaborations can be found on the personal staff pages at the FNP website.

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## Some words on the years 2019 -2021

- The period between the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2022 has been turbulent for FNP. Of course, like everyone else in the world, we needed to deal with the effects of COVID. Teaching online, trying to connect with colleagues from a distance, and making sure everyone was still managing their personal life - while working from home - was an important challenge that kept most of us occupied. At the same time, we were searching for a new chair to lead the group, because Esther Turnhout laid down her position as interim chair end of 2019, and took on a new one as the chair of Science, Technology & Society at Twente University, the Netherlands in 2021. Edward Huijbens, freshly appointed at the neighbouring chair of Cultural Geography, stepped in as interim chair until the end of 2020, after which Marielos Peña-Claros took over to strengthen the forest dimension of our group, and prepare for a new permanent chair to come in. We are grateful for what they did for our group and happy to have come out the COVID-crisis with a new chairholder: Georg Winkel!
- Times of COVID were not only about working from home. We continued our research and had multiple PhD graduations on topics such as agroecology and indigenous knowledge, among others. We also laid out the foundations for multiple projects that started in 2022, including the project on Sustainable Development Goals, in which we closely collaborate with the Water and Land Resource Centre in Addis Ababa, and supervise two PhD candidates on the landscape governance of lake Tanaa. Societal impact was another focal point. We were supported by over 300 colleagues in calling attention to the role our pension fund ABP plays in deforestation via their investments in meat, soy, and other commodities. Today, this has led to stricter investment guidelines by the pension fund and a new practice of assessing deforestation risks in their investment portfolios. Finally, our associate professor Jelle Behagel became the chair of the central university council (WUR Council), where he contributed to ensuring a new policy for resits, was part of the selection committee of our new chair of the executive board Sjoukje Heimovaara, and many other university issues.
- Colleagues that have worked (partly) at FNP and left in the years 2019, 2020 or 2021 are Geerten Hengeveld (Researcher), Oliver Human (Lecturer), Margriet Goris (PhD candidate & Lecturer), Annet Pauwelussen (Assistant Professor), Judith Floor (Lecturer), Fernanda Ayaviri Matuk (PhD candidate), Tina Bauer (PhD candidate), Leonardo van den Berg (PhD candidate), Jilske de Bruin (PhD candidate), Kristy Buckley (PhD candidate), Katarzyna Kowalczywska, Cinthia Lucia Soto Golcher (PhD candidate), Lucas de Carvalho Gomes (PhD candidate), Mohammed Beshar Degnet (PhD candidate), and William Cook (PhD candidate).

## Publications in 2019 – 2021

Output FNP in numbers	2019	2020	2021
<b>Scientific publications</b>			
PhD theses (promotor at FNP)	1	5	4
Refereed articles in a journal	36	41	33
Non-refereed articles in a journal	3	4	2
Books	3	0	4
Refereed book chapters	14	5	2
Non-refereed book chapters	1	0	0
Non-refereed conference papers	6	0	0
<b>Total scientific publications</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Professional publications</b>			
Articles in journal	8	2	3
Reports	7	10	12
Books	0	5	1
Book chapters	1	0	0
Conference papers	0	7	0
<b>Total publications</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>59</b>

## Dissertations in 2019 - 2021

- **William C. Cook** (2021) [The role of auditing at the nexus between global certification standards and local forest practices](#). Esther Turnhout: promotor.
- **Kristy J. Buckley** (2021) [Strengthening sustainable development diplomacy: Negotiation dynamics and early implementation related to climate, forests, and cattle](#). Bas Arts: promotor.
- **Cora van Oosten** (2021) [Landscape governance: from analysing challenges to capacitating stakeholders](#). Hens Runhaar and Bas Arts: promotors.
- **Mohammed Beshar Degnet** (2021) [Determinants of sustainable forest management: the cases of industrial private forest plantations in East Africa and non-industrial private forests in Sweden](#). Verina Ingram: co-promotor.
- **Fernanda Ayaviri Matuk van Maurik** (2020) [Advancing the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge in policy: towards legitimate and effective assessment and planning](#). Esther Turnhout: promotor; Jelle Behagel: co-promotor.
- **Margriet Goris** (2020) Emancipation of young agroecological peasants in Zona da Mata, Minas Gerais, Brazil: an identity in-the-making. Esther Turnhout: promotor, Jelle Behagel: co-promotor. (under embargo till 30 November 2023).
- **Leonardo van den Berg** (2020) [Building movements for transformation: defending and advancing agroecology in Brazil](#). Esther Turnhout: promotor; Jelle Behagel: co-promotor.
- **Lucas de Carvalho Gomes** (2020) [Land use change and ecosystem services: linking social and ecological systems across time](#). Bas Arts: co-promotor.
- **Cinthia Lucia Soto Golcher** (2020) [Lazy lands or carbon sinks? Frames and integration in the nexus of forest, agriculture and climate change](#). Bas Arts and Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers: promotors.
- **Katarzyna Kowalczywska** (2019) [How science-policy relations change: implementing EU environmental policy in Poland](#). Esther Turnhout: promotor; Jelle Behagel: co-promotor.



## Contact with FNP



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